Approved For Release 2004/10/08 : CIA-RDP79T00429A001200040012-0

OCI No. 3004/63

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
7 October 1963

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Situation in Ecuador

1. The fall of the Arosemena government on 11 July caught extreme leftist elements unprepared. The forceful action of the junta in rounding up subversives and overt Communists has shattered the party apparatus and short-term potential. Nevertheless, the junta has drawn increasingly heavy fire from various groups and will probably soon be reshuffled.

2. Junta President Admiral Castro Jijon's relations with Communists, and Air Force member Colonel Freile's venality, are bringing discredit to the regime. Labor and student dissatisfaction with certain of the junta's reform decrees is building toward a climax, while other civilian elements have been disappointed that reforms have not been more rapid.

25X1

25X1

3. In addition to plotting leftists and opportunistic political factions, the powerful Conservative Party--which heretofore has supported the junta--is becoming disillusioned.

25X1

25X1

Approved For Release 2004/10/08 : CIA-RDP79T00429A001200040012-0

Approved For Release 2004/10/08 : CIA-RDP79T00429A001200040012-0

4. Communist and other leftist front activities have been on a low level and have thus far manifested little ability for serious anti-government measures. [redacted] 25X1

25X1 [redacted] Thus the factionalized extreme left does not independently pose a threat to the government of Ecuador. 25X1

5. There are indications that the person likely to emerge as dictator is the junta's most capable member, General Marcos Gandara. Although he enjoys wide military and civilian support, his power position depends upon the attitude of Defense Minister Naranjo, which is presently unclear, although Naranjo is known to favor some change in the composition of the junta. Reportedly, he might seek membership in a new junta. Regardless of the turn this uncertain situation takes, it is almost certain that a vigorously anti-Communist military government will be in control for the foreseeable future.

Approved For Release 2004/10/08 : CIA-RDP79T00429A001200040012-0